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Victor C. Shih is a political economist at Northwestern University specializing in China. An immigrant to the United States from Hong Kong, Dr. Shih received his doctorate in Government from Harvard University, where he researched banking sector reform in China. He is the author of a new book published by the Cambridge University Press *Factions and Finance in China: Elite Conflict and Inflation*. He is further the author of numerous articles appearing in academic and business journals, including *The China Quarterly*, *Comparative Political Studies*, and *The Asian Wall Street Journal*, and frequent adviser to the private sector on the banking industry in China. Dr. Shih holds a B.A. from the George Washington University, where he graduated summa cum laude in East Asian studies with a minor in economics. His current research concerns elite political dynamics in China and Chinese fiscal policies.